

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: September 9, 2010

**SUBJECT: Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls
Determination of Suitability**

AGENDA ITEM: 12

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

RESOURCE PERSON: Field Representative Toni Gardner

Summary:

This agenda item is before the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Board for a determination of the suitability of Los Angeles County juvenile halls. The CSA is mandated under Section 209, Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) to biennially inspect all juvenile halls and special purpose juvenile halls. In the event a juvenile hall or special purpose juvenile hall is found out of compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities contained within Titles 15 or 24, California Code of Regulations, the juvenile hall or special purpose juvenile hall is required to file a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) within 60 days of having received notice from CSA of noncompliance. If the juvenile hall or special purpose juvenile hall fails to meet its commitment to resolve the noncompliance issue(s) as outlined in its CAP within a reasonable time frame, not to exceed 90 days, CSA shall make a determination of suitability at its next scheduled meeting. Los Angeles County's Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls failed to resolve noncompliance issues within the time frame specified in WIC §209(d).

Background:

CSA staff conducted the 2008-2010 biennial inspection of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls on the following dates: Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall: August 18, 19 and 20, 2009; Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: October 6, 7 and 8, 2009; and Central Juvenile Hall: December 1, 2 and 3, 2009. Each facility was found out of compliance with California Code of Regulations Title 15 sections relating to nutrition. All were multi-year violations.

On January 25, 2010, the inspection report was mailed to the Chief Probation Officer, the Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrative Officer, Presiding Judge, and the Chair of the Probation Commission. In the letter, the probation department was given until March 31, 2010 to provide a CAP to address the deficiencies identified during the inspection. Detention Bureau Chief Elizabeth Garcia acknowledged the county's intention to address the identified issues of noncompliance in her letter dated March 31, 2010. The letter contained matrices for each facility outlining steps that had been taken toward achieving compliance. The letter and attachments were reviewed by CSA staff and filed as the Corrective Action Plan as required by Section 209 (d), WIC. This code section authorizes the CSA to approve the corrective action plan and continue to monitor the facility to ensure completion of the plan within 90 days. The 90 day timeframe for the resolution of items outlined in the Corrective Action Plan was June 29, 2010.

During the three months following receipt of the CAP there was ongoing communication between CSA staff and Los Angeles County on the progress the county had made toward the correction of the areas of noncompliance. In April 2010, the county advised CSA that they had identified a

Registered Dietician (RD) to be hired as a consultant in addressing the outstanding areas of noncompliance. The Registered Dietician began work with the department on June 1, 2010, setting out immediately to correct the nutritional deficiencies. However, not all areas were corrected within the prescribed time limit and on July 1, 2010, Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer Donald Blevins was noticed that the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls had failed to resolve the issues identified in the CSA inspection report within 90 days and were scheduled for a determination of suitability at today's CSA Board meeting, per WIC Section 209(d).

Much has been accomplished toward the resolution of the areas of noncompliance since the hiring of the nutritional consultant. CSA staff met with Los Angeles County Public Health's local inspectors on August 11, 2010 and with the probation department's nutritional consultant on August 17, 2010 in preparation for today's board meeting. Attachment A summarizes the applicable regulations, the deficiencies cited by the nutritional health inspector and the corrective actions accomplished to this point. It is the joint recommendation of the Los Angeles County Public Health Department's local health inspectors, the Los Angeles County Probation Department's food service consultant and CSA staff, that the determination of suitability of Los Angeles County's juvenile halls be continued until the March, 2011 board meeting to allow for complete implementation.

Recommendation/Action Needed: Staff recommends that the Board continue the determination of the suitability of Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls for the confinement of minors until the March 2011 CSA Board meeting.